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GLOBAL ULTRAVIOLET IMAGING PROCESSING FOR THE GGS POLAR VISIBLE IMAGING SYSTEM (VIS)

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

1 October 1996 - 30 September 1997

NAG5-3328

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July 1997

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VIS Earth Camera Operations

The Visible Imaging System (VIS) on Polar spacecraft of the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center was launched into orbit about Earth on February 24, 1996. Since shortly after launch, the Earth Camera subsystem of the VIS has been operated nearly continuously to acquire far ultraviolet, global images of Earth and its northern and southern auroral ovals. The only exceptions to this continuous imaging occurred for approximately 10 days at the times of the Polar spacecraft re-orientation maneuvers in October, 1996 and April, 1997. Since launch, approximately 525,000 images have been acquired with the VIS Earth Camera.

The VIS instrument operational health continues to be excellent. Since launch, all systems have operated nominally with all voltages, currents, and temperatures remaining at nominal values. In addition, the sensitivity of the Earth Camera to ultraviolet light has remained constant throughout the operation period. Revised flight software was uploaded to the VIS in order to compensate for the spacecraft wobble. This is accomplished by electronic shuttering of the sensor in synchronization with the 6-second period of the wobble, thus recovering the original spatial resolution obtainable with the VIS Earth Camera. In addition, software patches were uploaded to make the VIS immune to signal dropouts that occur in the sliprings of the despun platform mechanism. These changes have worked very well. The VIS and in particular the VIS Earth Camera is fully operational and will continue to acquire global auroral images as the sun progresses toward solar maximum conditions after the turn of the century.

Summary of Significant Scientific Accomplishments

Images acquired with the VIS Earth Camera have led to significant accomplishments. Studies of substorm onset and development using multiple spacecraft and ground stations have begun. Initial results have been presented at meetings and the first publications have been accepted. Significant progress has been made in the understanding of the theta aurora phenomena by combining images from the VIS Earth Camera and the particle data from the Hydra instrument on the Polar satellite. Movies showing the dynamics of the auroral oval have been processed from the images acquired by the Earth Camera of VIS. In particular, the VIS Earth Camera movie of the auroral oval response to the January 6–11, 1997 Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) has been used to show the impact of the CME on Earth's magnetosphere. VIS Earth Camera images have also been used for comparison to the Energetic Neutral Particle Images of the Magnetosphere obtained with the CEPPAD instrument on the Polar spacecraft. The VIS Earth Camera acquired far ultraviolet images

of the comet Hale-Bopp in order to measure the oxygen content of the cometary coma. This can then be related to the total water production from the comet. Analysis of these images is ongoing. Finally, the VIS Earth Camera has been used to confirm the existence of atmospheric holes first observed with the ultraviolet imaging photometer on the Dynamics Explorer-1 spacecraft more than a decade ago. These atmospheric holes have been associated with the impact of small comets into Earth's upper atmosphere at a global rate of 5 to 20 per minute. In addition, the VIS Earth Camera has captured for the first time the disintegration of a small fraction of these small comets at high altitudes. These disintegrated small comets leave a tell-tale dashed trail of resonantly scattered ultraviolet emission from the atomic oxygen liberated from the water molecules.

Data Processing and Distribution

In addition to normal daily processing of the VIS Earth Camera Images since launch, the VIS imaging team has special processed 79 requests for data by 21 investigators. To date, all image data requests have been serviced. The data distribution has generally been in 4 forms.

- 1) Fully processed images (level 2 data) in final display format (e.g. GIF)
- 2) Movies created by combining the stills of the fully processed images and converting to NTSC, PAL, or other formats.
- 3) Level 2 processed images distributed via FTP or CD-ROM.
- 4) Level 1 processed image data requested and distributed to Co-investigators.

The table below includes the listing of requested data, requesters, and institutions whose data requests were satisfied during the period of performance.

In addition to the data distributed as a result of data requests, the images from the Near Real Time contacts have been automatically processed and placed online with accessibility from the World Wide Web (WWW). To date approximately 110,000 images have been served to the scientific community and the public.

Development of software to produce CDFs for Key Parameter data, level 1 data, and level 2 data is in the late testing stages and will be released within the next few months. Testing of the Key Parameter software on the CDHF computer is slated to begin next month and release should follow quickly. In addition, IDL based viewers that can be transported to any computer platform running the IDL software have been developed to make the CDFs immediately accessible to all of the ISTP community.

Presentations and Papers

The accompanying tables list the publications and presentations that have included the use of the VIS Earth Camera image data. In summary to date 10 papers have been submitted for publication and 24 presentations have been given at large number of national and international conferences. Many additional presentations utilizing image data acquired with the VIS Earth Camera have been given for which members of the VIS imaging

investigation team have not been co-authors. These presentations have not been included in the table of presentations.

Publications

- Frank, L. A., J. B. Sigwarth, J. D. Craven, J. P. Cravens, J. S. Dolan, M. R. Dvorsky, P. K. Hardebeck, J. D. Harvey and D. Muller, The Visible Imaging System (VIS) for the Polar Spacecraft, <u>Space Sci. Rev.</u>, <u>71</u>, 297-328, 1995.
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- Frank, L. A. and J. B. Sigwarth, Trails of OH Emissions From Small Comets in the Vicinity of Earth, accepted for publication, <u>Geophys</u>. <u>Res. Lett.</u>, 1997.
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- Chang, S.-W., J. D. Scudder, J. B. Sigwarth, L. A. Frank, N. C. Maynard, W. J. Burke, W. K. Peterson, E. G. Shelley, R. Friedel, J. B. Blake, R. A. Greenwald, R. P. Lepping, G. J. Sofko, J.-P. Villain and M. Lester, A Comparison of a Model for the Theta Aurora with Observations from Polar, Wind and SuperDARN, submitted to J. Geophys. Res., 1997.

 Frank, L. A. and J. B. Sigwarth, On the Influx of Small Comets into Earth's Atmosphere, submitted to <u>Proceedings</u> SPIE's 1997 International Symposium on Instruments, Methods, and Missions for the Investigation of Extraterrestrial Microorganisms, San Diego, California, 27 July-1 August 1997.

Abstracts/Presentations

- 1. Frank, L. A., J. B. Sigwarth, J. D. Craven, C.-I. Meng, T. L. Killeen and W. E. Sharp, Global Views of Earth and its Auroras with the Visible Imaging System (VIS) on the Polar Spacecraft, 31st Scientific Assembly of COSPAR, Birmingham, United Kingdom, p. 175, 14-21 July 1996.
- 2. Sigwarth, J. B., L. A. Frank, J. D. Craven, C.-I. Meng, G. K. Parks, T. L. Killeen and W. E. Sharp, Images of Earth's Auroras From the Visible Imaging System (VIS) for the POLAR Spacecraft, presented at the 1st Alfven Conference, Kiruna, Sweden, 9-13 September 1996.
- 3. Frank, L. A., J. B. Sigwarth, J. D. Craven, C.-I. Meng, G. K. Parks, T. L. Killeen and W. E. Sharp, Images of Earth's Auroras From the Visible Imaging System (VIS) for the POLAR Spacecraft, 1996 Huntsville Workshop on "Encounter Between Global Observations and Models in the ISTP ERA," Guntersville, Alabama, p. 15, 15–20 September 1996.
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- 5. Reeves, G. D., M. G. Henderson, M. F. Thomsen, R. D. Belian, H. J. Singer, G. K. Parks, L. A. Frank and R. P. Lin, Periodic Oscillations Seen in the Inner Plasmasheet Following a Substorm on May 10, 1996: Coordinated ISTP Observations, Chapman Conference on "The Earth's Magnetotail: New Perspectives," Kanazawa, Japan, p. 35, 5-9 November 1996.
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- 12. Reeves, G. D., M. G. Henderson, M. F. Thomsen, R. D. Belian, H. J. Singer, G. K. Parks, L. A. Frank and R. P. Lin, Periodic Oscillations Seen in the Inner Plasmasheet Following a Substorm on May 10, 1996: Coordinated ISTP Observations, <u>EOS</u>, <u>77</u>(46), 613, 1996.
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- 14. Anderson, R. R., D. A. Gurnett, J. D. Scudder, L. A. Frank, J. B. Sigwarth, H. Matsumoto, K. Hashimoto, H. Kojima, Y. Kasaba, M. L. Kaiser, G. Rostoker, J.-L. Bougeret, J.-L. Steinberg, I. Nagano, H. J. Singer and T. G. Onsager, GEOTAIL, WIND, POLAR, CANOPUS, and ISTP Associated Geosynchronous Satellite Observations of Substorms Following the January 1997 CME Event, EOS, 78(17), 283, 1997.
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- 25. Frank, L. A., W. R. Paterson, J. B. Sigwarth, S. Kokubun and T. Yamamoto, Simultaneous Observations of the Auroral Oval With the Polar Spacecraft and of Plasma Sheet Dynamics With the Geotail Spacecraft, to be presented at the 8th Scientific Assembly of International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA), Uppsala, Sweden, 4-15 August 1997.
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- 31. Pulkkinen, T. I., D. N. Baker, L. A. Frank, J. B. Sigwarth, S. G. Kanekal and T. Onsager, Effects of the Sun to the Earth's Particle Environment: Particle Precipitation Boundaries and UV Oval Images Compared, to be presented at the conference Toward Solar Max 2001: The Present Achievements and Future Opportunities of ISTP and GEM, Yosemite, California, 10-13 February 1998.

| | | POLAR VISIBLE IMAGING IN | POLAR VISIBLE IMAGING INVESTIGATION EARTH CAMERA NAG5-3328 PROCESSED DATA PROVIDED 10/01/96-7/25/97 |
|------|-----|--------------------------|---|
| Year | Day | Requested By | Institution/Organization |
| 1996 | 85 | Dr. Jean-Louis Bougeret | Observatoire Pairs Meudon, France |
| 1996 | 82 | Dr. Lev M. Zelenyi | Russian Academy of Science, Space Research Institute, Moscow |
| 1996 | 26 | Mr. Jon Storey | University of Leicester, United Kingdom |
| 1996 | 100 | Mr. Jon Storey | University of Leicester, United Kingdom |
| 1996 | 120 | Dr. Nelson Maynard | Mission Research Corporation, New Hampshire |
| 1996 | 121 | Dr. Nicola Fox | NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center |
| 1996 | 126 | Dr. Tuija I. Pulkkinen | University of Colorado |
| 1996 | 128 | Dr. Shen-Wu Chang | University of Iowa |
| 1996 | 128 | Dr. Tuija I. Pulkkinen | University of Colorado |
| 1996 | 129 | Dr. Nelson Maynard | Mission Research Corporation, New Hampshire |
| 1996 | 130 | Dr. Tuija I. Pulkkinen | University of Colorado |
| 1996 | 132 | Dr. Tuija I. Pulkkinen | University of Colorado |
| 1996 | 134 | Dr. Tuija I. Pulkkinen | University of Colorado |
| 1996 | 136 | Dr. Shen-Wu Chang | University of Iowa |
| 1996 | 136 | Dr. Tuija I. Pulkkinen | University of Colorado |
| 1996 | 140 | Dr. Mark Lester | University of Leicester, United Kingdom |
| 1996 | 149 | Dr. Alan Rodger | British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, England |
| 1996 | 150 | Dr. Shen-Wu Chang | University of Iowa |
| 1996 | 158 | Dr. Harlan Spence | Boston University |
| 1996 | 192 | Dr. Martin Wuest | Southwest Research Institute |
| 1996 | 240 | Kirsten Lorentzen | University of Washington |
| 1996 | 241 | Kirsten Lorentzen | University of Washington |
| 1996 | 243 | Dr. Jean-Louis Bougeret | Observatoire Pairs Meudon, France |
| 1996 | 243 | Dr. Lev M. Zelenyi | Russian Academy of Science, Space Research Institute, Moscow |
| 1996 | 250 | Dr. Shen-Wu Chang | Aubum University |
| 1996 | 254 | Dr. Ennio Sanchez | SRI International, Menlo Park, CA |
| 1996 | 261 | Dr. Shen-Wu Chang | University of Iowa |
| 1996 | 271 | Dr. John Craven | University of Alaska, Fairbanks |
| 1996 | 306 | Dr. Shen-Wu Chang | University of Iowa |
| 1996 | 310 | Dr. Shen-Wu Chang | University of Iowa |
| 1996 | 320 | Dr. William K. Peterson | Lockheed Space Science Lab., Palto Alta, CA |
| 1996 | 320 | Yeh-Kai Tung | University of California, Berkeley |
| 1996 | 344 | Dr. D. Sibeck | Johns Hopkins University, APL |
| 1996 | 348 | Dr. William K. Peterson | Lockheed Space Science Lab., Palto Alta, CA |
| 1996 | 348 | Yeh-Kai Tung | University of California, Berkeley |

| IG INVESTIGATION EARTH CAMERA NAG5-3328 ED DATA PROVIDED 10/01/96-7/25/97 | | Lockheed Space Science Lab., Palto Alta, CA | University of California, Berkeley | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | University of Iowa | Mission Research Corporation, New Hampshire | University of Iowa | NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center | University of Michigan | NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center | University of Iowa | Mission Research Corporation, New Hampshire | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | Lockheed Space Science Lab., Palto Alta, CA | University of California, Berkeley | | of Alaska, | | _ | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | | | | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | University of Iowa | | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | | University of Alaska, Fairbanks |
|--|--------------|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| POLAR VISIBLE IMAGING PROCESSED | Requested By | Dr. William K. Peterson | Yeh-Kai Tung | Dr. John Craven | Dr. John Craven | Jolene Pickett | Dr. Nelson Maynard | Jolene Pickett | Dr. Nicola Fox | Dr. Qian Wu | Dr. Nicola Fox | Dr. Roger R. Anderson | Dr. Nelson Maynard | 3 Dr. John Craven | 5 Dr. John Craven | ' Dr. John Craven | Dr. William K. Peterson | / Yeh-Kai Tung | 3 Dr. John Craven | I Dr. John Craven | 2 Dr. John Craven | 3 Dr. John Craven | t Dr. John Craven | 5 Dr. John Craven | 5 Dr. John Craven | 7 Dr. John Craven | 3 Dr. John Craven | Dr. John Craven | Dr. John Craven | 1 Dr. John Craven | 2 Dr. John Craven | 3 Jolene Pickett | 4 Dr. John Craven | 5 Dr. John Craven | 6 Dr. John Craven | 7 Dr. John Craven |
| | Day | 354 | 354 | 366 | _ | က | 9 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 12 | 12 | 18 | 23 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 28 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 4 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 |
| | Year | 1996 | 1996 | 1996 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 |

| MAGING INVESTIGATION EARTH CAMERA NAG5-3328 | OCESSED DATA PROVIDED 10/01/96-7/25/97 | Institution/Organization | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | U. of Michigan Space Physics Research Laboratory | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | Mission Research Corporation, New Hampshire |
|---|--|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| POLAR VISIBLE IMAGING | PROCESSE | Requested By | Dr. John Craven | Dr. John Craven | Dr. John Craven | Dr. R. Niciejewski | Dr. John Craven | Dr. John Craven | Dr. John Craven | Dr. John Craven | Dr. Nelson Maynard |
| | | Day | 26 | 73 | 74 | 74 | 8 | 85 | 94 | 92 | 150 |
| | | Year | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 |